

tell you; we feel it but lack expression. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the Brethren. Wonderous change! But we can no more tell you what spiritual life is than scientists can tell you what physical death is. The fact is attested in daily lives of hundreds of men and women.

But my friends, to gain this glorious existence beyond the grave, means a life of faith and hope here; a life confidently looking forward to this existence. If we have any doubts they must be refined. "Faith," says Wallace in "Prince of India," is but a doubt refined," and in our estimation a good definition. The complexion of our religious thought depends upon our view of death. This life is but a foreground of that which is to come, and death but the narrow bridge by which we pass from one state of existence to the other. Death has no power over us; just as we are at death so we will be at judgement.

We should feed our souls upon these promises of God day by day, until our faith become as God being so closely connected to him.

We should look upon death as promotion. First death, then life-eternal. Let us be able to say with Paul, "For me to die is gain." Let us become more and more earnest with our faith. Let us rid ourselves of our old, false, ideas of death, and let us look upon it as for our gain, be confident in the future and trust in God. Let us rejoice on Easter morn in promise of our Risen Redeemer. "Because I live ye shall live also." Let us not fear the grave; knowing that when our voyage is over, God will bring us safely into the haven of rest. Let us live in the confident assurance of an immortal existence, perform our life's work faithfully let us "seek those things above" and "let our life be hid in Christ's." Then we have naught to fear. Even though our bodies may remain in the graves many years we cannot be changed.

"Just such a face as greets you now,

Just such a form as here we bear,

Only more glorious far, will rise,

To meet the Saviour in the skies.

"Then will I lay me down in peace,

When called to leave this vale of tears,

For in my flesh shall I see God,  
E'en though I sleep two thousand years."

May we all so live that when we shall appear at God's throne we may hear the joyful sentence, "Well done thou good and faithful servant enter unto the joys of thy Lord," is my earnest prayer. Amen.

Sharpsburg, Md.

## Sisters' Department.

### THE BEAUTY OF AN EARNEST CHRISTIAN LIFE.

(An address given by H. Helen Frame at the S. S. C. E. Sunday evening, Feb. 25, 1894, at Fairview Chapel.)

The foundation upon which is built the structure of the earnest Christian life is an abiding faith in the power and goodness of God; a holy and unalterable faith in the Divine Christ; a faith so strong and convincing that it leads its possessor to prove his faith by his works.

The true Christian recognizes the universal Brotherhood of man, and in that recognition demonstrates the first principle of Christianity, which is the law of love.

The exercise of love necessarily begets all those qualities which are the ornament and glory of the Christian. What are those qualities? Paul tells us. "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Again, "The fruit of the spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth;" and again, "With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love." Of the righteous man we are told. "He hath given to the poor; his righteousness remaineth forever;" again, "A lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate." These and other attributes, constitute the natural overflow springing from the pure fountain of love which dwells in the heart of the earnest Christian.

What a healthful radiance emanates from that life whose keynote is love! Love of the eternal Father, love of the Divine Christ, love of a struggling Brotherhood. A love which ignores self and lives for its object. A love which opens wide the portals of the heart to the crying needs of humanity,

rejoicing with those who rejoice, mourning with those who mourn. A love which comforts the sorrowing, ministers to the sick and troubled, helps bear the burden of the heavy laden, is charitable to the needy, tender and compassionate toward the erring, slow to judge or condemn, patient under tribulation.

The true Christian seeks at all times to pattern after the Christ-life. The manner of his living declares, "I stand for Christ, His foes are mine". The life so guided is beautiful in its consecration to holiness. Man is made more manly, woman more womanly, by this earnest endeavor to walk in the path marked out for them by their gentle master. Following this pattern one cannot be cruel or selfish, unjust or critical. One cannot be careless of the rights of others, forgetful of their privileges, heedless of their sorrows, unmindful of their toils, indifferent to temporal and spiritual welfare.

On the contrary such a life is a constant out-put of attractive goodness; a continual encouragement to weaker ones to make a braver effort; a standing invitation for others to come into the same lighted pathway. Above all it is a perpetual vindication of the character and power of the teachings of Christ. Even one such life in a community is positive proof of the purity of the gospel, and of the power of God to remove evil from the heart of man, and make that heart pure and helpful, tender and sympathetic.

Even the unbeliever; while he scorns the source of inspiration in such a life, admits its beauty and is led to marvel at the power which directs the life to its completeness.

How beautiful then is the earnest Christian life! how exalted its example, how sublime its inspiration! Some may say, and unfortunately, many do say, that such a standard of excellence is an ideal one; but indeed it is not idealism. Its reality is being constantly demonstrated and we need only look to see. Not one of us here tonight but knows of at least one who is living an earnest, devoted, consecrated Christian life so successfully that its fruits are beyond question. Moreover, the earnestness of a man's efforts cannot always be measured by the result of his effort.